

JOURNAL OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS 32, 274–284 (1979)

The Number of Analytic Solutions of a Singular Differential System*

LEON M. HALL

*Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Nebraska–Lincoln,
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588*

Received April 3, 1978

1. Consider the system

$$z^D y'(z) + B(z) y(z) = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

of differential equations in the complex plane. Here y is an n -dimensional vector, $B(z)$ is an $n \times n$ matrix of functions analytic at $z = 0$, and $D = \text{diag}\{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$, with $d_i = 0, 1$, or 2 , $i = 1, \dots, n$. A classical result for this system was given in 1926 by F. Lettenmeyer [6], who proved that (1.1) has at least $(n - \text{tr } D)$ linearly independent solutions analytic at $z = 0$. For Lettenmeyer's theorem to be meaningful, of course we must have $\text{tr } D < n$. Some results for the case in which $d_i = 2$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, have been obtained by L. J. Grimm and L. M. Hall [1]. This result, like Lettenmeyer's, gives at best a lower bound for the number of analytic solutions.

In this paper we develop a procedure which yields the exact number of linearly independent solutions of (1.1) which are analytic at $z = 0$. This procedure will be applicable whenever D is as given above, i.e., D is an $n \times n$ diagonal matrix with some combination of zeros, ones and twos on the diagonal. Actually, no restriction need be placed on the size of the diagonal entries in D since, due to a result of H. L. Turrittin [7], the rank of a linear differential system can be reduced to rank one at the expense of increasing the dimension of the system. Rank one corresponds to $d_i = 2$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. The techniques which we use are primarily based on the work of Grimm and Hall [2], the results of Hall [4], and the Cesari–Hale alternative problem technique (see Hale [3]).

2. Let E , \bar{E} , and C denote the open unit disc, closed unit disc, and unit circle, respectively. Let p be a nonnegative integer and define the Banach

* This research was supported in part by a University of Nebraska–Lincoln Senior Faculty Research Fellowship.

space A_p as the class of functions v analytic in E and p times continuously differentiable on \bar{E} with norm given by

$$\|v\|_p = \{\max |v^{(i)}(z)|: i = 0, \dots, p, z \in C\}.$$

Let $A_{p,n}$ be the Banach space of n -vector functions $y(z) = (y^1(z), y^2(z), \dots, y^n(z))^T$ with $y^k(z) \in A_p$, $1 \leq k \leq n$, with norm

$$\|y\|_p^n = \{\max \|y^k\|_p, 1 \leq k \leq n\}.$$

If f and g are n -vectors we will denote by (f, g) the "Euclidean inner product" of f and g , viz., $(f, g) = \sum_{i=1}^n f^i g^i$. (Here and in the rest of this paper superscripts will be used to denote the components of a vector, and subscripts will denote the coefficients in a power series.) The Hadamard product of f and g is then defined by

$$B(f, g; z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (f_k, g_k) z^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n f_k^i g_k^i \right) z^k.$$

We can now define $A_{0,n}^*$, the space conjugate to $A_{0,n}$. For details see [2]. $A_{0,n}^*$ is the class of all n -vectors f , with components analytic in E , such that $\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} B(u, f; r)$ exists for each $u \in A_{0,n}$, with norm

$$\|f\|^* = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 1^-} \{ |B(u, f; r)|: u \in A_{0,n}, \|u\|_0^n = 1 \}.$$

As indicated in [4], the Hardy space H^2 is closely related to the above spaces in the scalar case. In fact $A_0 \subset H^2 \subset A_0^*$ and, if f and g belong to H^2 , $\langle f, \hat{g} \rangle = \lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} B(f, g; r)$, where $\hat{g}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \bar{g}_k z^k$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the H^2 inner product. Now let H_n^2 denote the space of n -vectors with components in H^2 and denote the H^2 norm by $\|\cdot\|$. Define a norm on H_n^2 by

$$\|f\|_n = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \|f^i\|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

If $g(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k z^k$ and $h(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k z^k$ are n -vector functions analytic in E and if $\Phi(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Phi_k z^k$ is an $n \times n$ matrix function analytic in E define

$$[h, g] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} h_k^T g_k,$$

and

$$[\Phi, g] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Phi_k g_k.$$

Note that $[h, g] = B(h, g; 1)$, but that $[\Phi, g]$ is an n -vector.

LEMMA 2.1. Let $\Phi(z) = (\phi^{ij}(z))$, $i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$, be an $n \times n$ matrix with elements belonging to H^2 , and let $g(z) \in H_n^2$. Then

$$[\Phi, g] = \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \phi^{1\ell}, g^\ell \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \phi^{n\ell}, g^\ell \rangle \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. The i th row of $[\Phi, g]$ is

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell=1}^n \phi_k^{i\ell} g_k^\ell = \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \phi^{i\ell}, g^\ell \rangle$$

Finally, let the unit shift operator σ be defined by $\sigma F = zF$, where F is either a scalar, a vector, or a matrix.

3. Define the operator $L: A_{1,n} \rightarrow A_{0,n}$ by

$$Ly(z) = z^D y'(z) + B(z)y(z),$$

where D is as in Section 1. In [2] the following theorem is proved.

THEOREM 3.1. The system $Ly = u$ has a solution in $A_{1,n}$ if and only if

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} B(u, f; r) = 0 \quad (3.1)$$

for all $f \in A_{0,n}^*$ such that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} B(Ly, f; r) = 0 \quad (3.2)$$

for all $y \in A_{1,n}$.

Since f is analytic in E and each element of $B(z)$ is in A_0 we can write $f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f_k z^k$, $B(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k z^k$, and note that (3.2) is equivalent to the infinite system

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k f_k &= 0 \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k f_{k+1} &= -(f_{a_1}^1, f_{a_2}^2, \dots, f_{a_n}^n)^T \\ &\vdots \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} B_k f_{k+m} &= -m(f_{a_1+m-1}^1, f_{a_2+m-1}^2, \dots, f_{a_n+m-1}^n)^T \\ &\vdots \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Note that (3.2) or (3.3) defines the cokernel of L .

We now proceed to express (3.3) in terms of operators. Two different types of operators will be used, "ordinary" $n \times n$ matrices, and operators given in terms of infinite matrices. In the latter case we will "stack" the coefficients of the vector function which is being operated on to obtain a sequence. We shall define the following operators.

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_n &= n \times n \text{ identity,} \\
 I_\infty &= \text{diag}\{1, 1, 1, \dots\}, \\
 E_j &= n \times n \text{ matrix which is the projection onto the} \\
 &\quad \text{null space of } (D - jI_n), \quad j = 0, 1, 2, \dots. \\
 U_0 &= \text{subdiag}\{0, -I_n, -2I_n, -3I_n, \dots\}, \\
 U_1 &= \text{diag}\{0, -I_n, -2I_n, -3I_n, \dots\}, \\
 U_2 &= \text{superdiag}\{0, -I_n, -2I_n, -3I_n, \dots\}, \\
 U &= E_0U_0 + E_1U_1 + E_2U_2 \\
 W &= \begin{bmatrix} B_0 & B_1 & B_2 & B_3 & \cdots \\ 0 & B_0 & B_1 & B_2 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & B_0 & B_1 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \\
 P &= \text{diag}\{I_n, E_2I_n, 0, 0, \dots\}, \\
 Q &= \text{diag}\{0, (E_1 + E_2)I_n, I_n, \dots\}, \\
 M_0 &= \text{superdiag}\{0, -I_n, -\frac{1}{2}I_n, -\frac{1}{3}I_n, \dots\}, \\
 M_1 &= \text{diag}\{0, -I_n, -\frac{1}{2}I_n, -\frac{1}{3}I_n, \dots\}, \\
 M_2 &= \text{subdiag}\{0, -I_n, -\frac{1}{2}I_n, -\frac{1}{3}I_n, \dots\}, \\
 M &= E_0M_0 + E_1M_1 + E_2M_2 \\
 P_N &= \text{diag}\{I_n, I_n, \dots, I_n, 0, \dots\}, (N+1)I_n\text{'s.}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that P is the projection onto the kernel of U and Q is the projection onto the range of U . Also, $UM = Q$ and $MU = I_\infty - P$. Now let $P_N f = g$ and $(I_\infty - P_N)f = h$. System (3.3) can now be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a)} \quad h &= (I_\infty - P_N)MQW(g + h), \\
 \text{(b)} \quad (I_\infty - P)g &= P_NMQW(g + h), \\
 \text{(c)} \quad (I_\infty - Q)W(g + h) &= 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.4}$$

This decomposition is similar to that done in [4] for the scalar case. We shall also need the representation of the matrix MQW , which is given as follows:

$MQW =$

$$- \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & E_1 B_0 & (E_0 B_0 + E_1 B_1) & (E_0 B_1 + E_1 B_2) & (E_0 B_2 + E_1 B_3) & \cdots \\ 0 & E_2 B_0 & (\frac{1}{2} E_1 B_0 + E_2 B_1) & (\frac{1}{2} E_0 B_0 + \frac{1}{2} E_1 B_1 + E_2 B_2) & (\frac{1}{2} E_0 B_1 + \frac{1}{2} E_1 B_2 + E_2 B_3) & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} E_2 B_0 & (\frac{1}{3} E_1 B_0 + \frac{1}{2} E_2 B_1) & (\frac{1}{3} E_0 B_0 + \frac{1}{3} E_1 B_1 + \frac{1}{2} E_2 B_2) & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} E_2 B_0 & (\frac{1}{4} E_1 B_0 + \frac{1}{3} E_2 B_1) & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} E_2 B_0 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

THEOREM 3.2. For sufficiently large N the operator $(I_\infty - P_N)MQW$ is a contraction on H_n^2 .

Proof. For $f \in H_n^2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} (I_\infty - P_N)MQWf = & - \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{k-1} \right) [\sigma^{k-1} E_2 B, f] + \left(\frac{1}{k} \right) [\sigma^k E_1 B, f] \right. \\ & \left. + \left(\frac{1}{k} \right) [\sigma^{k+1} E_0 B, f] \right\} z^k. \end{aligned}$$

So by Lemma 2.1 we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \| (I_\infty - P_N)MQWf \|_n^2 \\ & \leq \sum_{k=N+1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{k-1} \right)^2 \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \sigma^{k-1} (E_2 B)^{i\ell}, f^\ell \rangle \right|^2 \right. \\ & \quad + \left(\frac{1}{k} \right)^2 \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \sigma^k (E_1 B)^{i\ell}, f^\ell \rangle \right|^2 \\ & \quad \left. + \left(\frac{1}{k} \right)^2 \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\ell=1}^n \langle \sigma^{k+1} (E_0 B)^{i\ell}, f^\ell \rangle \right|^2 \right\} \\ & \leq \left(\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \right) \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\ell=1}^n \{ \| (E_2 B)^{i\ell} \|^2 + \| (E_1 B)^{i\ell} \|^2 + \| (E_0 B)^{i\ell} \|^2 \} \| f^\ell \|^2 \\ & \leq \left(\sum_{k=N}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \right) 3 \| B \|^2 \| f \|_n^2. \end{aligned}$$

Here we have denoted the element in the i th row and ℓ th column of $E_j B$, $j = 0, 1, 2$, by $(E_j B)^{i\ell}$. Also, if $B(z) = ((B)^{i\ell}(z))$ is an $n \times n$ matrix with elements in H_n^2 we define $\| B \| = (\sum_{i,\ell=1}^n \| (B)^{i\ell} \|^2)^{1/2}$. The proof is now complete.

As a result of Theorem 3.2 we have

$$[I_\infty - (I_\infty - P_N)MQW]^{-1} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [(I_\infty - P_N)MQW]^k,$$

and so it is now possible to solve (3.4a) for h in terms of g :

$$h = [I_\infty - (I_\infty - P_N)MQW]^{-1}(I_\infty - P_N)MQWg. \quad (3.5)$$

We now substitute this h into (3.4b) to obtain

$$(I_\infty - P)g = \left\{ P_NMQW \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [(I - P_N)MQW]^k \right\} g,$$

which can be expressed as the following system of linear equations in the n -vector unknowns g_1, \dots, g_N :

$$\begin{aligned} (E_0 + E_1)g_1 + [\sigma^2 E_0 B, g] + [\sigma E_1 B, g] + C_1 g_N &= 0 \\ g_2 + \frac{1}{2}[\sigma^3 E_0 B, g] + \frac{1}{2}[\sigma^2 E_1 B, g] + [\sigma E_2 B, g] + C_2 g_N &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ g_N + \frac{1}{N}[\sigma^N E_1 B, g] + \frac{1}{N-1}[\sigma^{N-1} E_2 B, g] + C_N g_N &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

where $C_1 = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (E_0 B_{N+j-1} + E_1 B_{N+j}) \cdot (N+j+2, N+1)^k$, and $C_i = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} (E_0 B_{N+j-i} + E_1 B_{N+j-i+1} + E_2 B_{N+j-i+2}) \cdot (N+j+2, N+1)^k$, $2 \leq i \leq N$ and $(N+i, N+1)^k$ denotes the $n \times n$ matrix in the $(N+i, N+1)$ position of $[(I_\infty - P_N)MQW]^k$, where we consider an element of $[(I_\infty - P_N)MQW]^k$ to be an $n \times n$ matrix. We shall now consider (3.6) as a system of nN scalar equations in the nN unknowns $g_k^j, j = 1, \dots, n, k = 1, \dots, N$, and write the system as

$$\mathcal{B}\tilde{g} = 0, \quad (3.7)$$

where $\tilde{g} = (g_1^1, g_1^2, \dots, g_1^n, g_2^1, \dots, g_N^n)^T$ and \mathcal{B} is the $nN \times nN$ matrix obtained from (3.6). If rank $\mathcal{B} = r$ then we can solve for r of the g_k^j 's in terms of the remaining $(nN - r)$ g_k^j 's. Let $\rho = nN - r$, and let G be a ρ -vector whose components are the arbitrary g_k^j 's (in an arbitrary but fixed order). Then we can express $g(z)$, except for g_0 , in terms of G as follows:

$$g(z) = g_0 + \sum_{k=1}^N M_k G z^k.$$

Here, for each k , M_k is the appropriate $n \times \rho$ matrix determined by our solution of (3.7). Careful scrutiny of the matrices involved in (3.5) reveals that the coefficients of h depend only on g_N , and so we can write, noting that $f_0 = g_0$,

$$f(z) = f_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} M_k G z^k.$$

We now turn to (3.4c) which can be expressed as the following system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} B_0 & \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} B_i M_i \\ 0 & \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} E_0 B_{i-1} M_i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} f_0 \\ G \end{bmatrix} = 0. \quad (3.8)$$

Denote the $2n \times (\rho + n)$ matrix in (3.8) by \mathcal{C} and let $\gamma = \text{rank } \mathcal{C}$. Hence we can solve (3.8) for γ unknowns in terms of either the remaining $n + \rho - \gamma$ unknowns if $\rho \leq n$, or the remaining $2n - \gamma$ unknowns if $\rho \geq n$.

Some special cases now need to be examined.

Case 1. $\rho = 0$. This requires $r = nN$ which means $E_2 \equiv 0$, because otherwise one or more of the first n rows of \mathcal{B} would be all zeros. $E_2 \equiv 0$ is equivalent to D containing only 0's and 1's on the diagonal and this will result in the $(N+1)$ st block column of $(I_\infty - P_N)MQW$ being all zeros which implies that $C_i = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, N$. Hence system (3.6) can be solved from the bottom up and we get, in addition to the fact that $g_N = g_{N-1} = \dots = g_1 = 0$, that the matrices $[kI_n + E_1 B_0]$, $k = 2, \dots, N$, and the matrix $[E_0 + E_1(I_n + B_0)]$ are all nonsingular. System (3.8) now becomes $B_0 f_0 = 0$ and so $\gamma = \text{rank } B_0$.

Case 2. $\rho = n$. In this case the matrix \mathcal{C} is a $2n \times 2n$ matrix and G is an n -vector. If $\gamma = 2n$ then (3.8) has only the trivial solution, which means (3.4) has only the trivial solution, as will be shown later.

Case 3. $0 < \rho < n$. We first note that this cannot occur when $D = 2I$, for then $r \leq n(N-1)$ and $\rho \geq n$. When $0 < \rho < n$ system (3.8) may represent a system with more equations than unknowns and thus could have only the trivial solution. We shall show that if (3.8) has only the trivial solution then B_0 is nonsingular, but that the converse is false.

If (3.8) has only the trivial solution then $\text{rank } \mathcal{C}$ must be $n + \rho$. Otherwise, the columns of \mathcal{C} would be linearly dependent and there would exist a non-trivial linear combination of the columns equal to zero. The coefficients of this linear combination would give a nonzero vector v such that $\mathcal{C}v = 0$, a contradiction. If the columns of \mathcal{C} are linearly independent then so are the columns of B_0 , so B_0 is nonsingular.

Also, it is clear that if $\text{rank } \mathcal{C} = n + \rho$ then (3.8) has only the trivial solution. However, B_0 nonsingular does not guarantee that $\text{rank } \mathcal{C} = n + \rho$. Finally, we note that if $E_0 \equiv I_n$ then $\rho = 0$, which was covered in Case 1, and if $E_0 \equiv 0$ then \mathcal{C} is essentially an $n \times (n + \rho)$ dimensional matrix and the possibility of more equations than unknowns is eliminated.

We have thus found $n + \rho - \gamma$ linearly independent solutions of (3.2) which belong to H_n^2 , and shall next show that our procedure yields all solutions

of (3.2). Let f^* be a solution of (3.2) with $g^* = P_N f^*$ and $h^* = (I_\infty - P_N) f^*$. Since f^* satisfies (3.4a) we can write

$$[I_\infty - (I_\infty - P_N) MQW] h^* = (I_\infty - P_N) MQW g^*. \quad (3.10)$$

The right hand side of (3.10) is easily calculated to be $-(1/N) E_2 B_0 g_N^* z^{N+1}$, which is in H_n^2 , and so we can operate on both sides of (3.10) with $[I_\infty - (I_\infty - P_N) MQW]^{-1}$. Hence $h^* \in H_n^2$ and so $f^* \in H_n^2$ also. We are now ready to state our main result which summarizes the above work.

THEOREM 3.3. *Let L , ρ , and γ be as defined in this section, and let $d = \text{tr } D$. Then*

- (i) $\text{coker } L$ is a subset of H_n^2 ,
- (ii) $\dim \text{coker } L = n + \rho - \gamma$,
- (iii) $\dim \ker L = 2n + \rho - \gamma - d = n - d + \dim \text{coker } L$.

Conclusion (iii) of Theorem 3.3 is obtained from the fact that $\dim \text{coker } L - \dim \ker L = \text{index } L = d - n$ (see [2] for details). The following corollary gives a necessary and sufficient condition for $\dim \ker L$ to equal the lower bound given by Lettenmeyer's theorem. This corollary was proved by Grimm and Hall for a slightly more general operator in [2], but now if there are more solutions than the number guaranteed by Lettenmeyer, Theorem 3.3 tells us exactly how many more.

COROLLARY 3.3.1. *Given the hypotheses of Theorem 3.3, and $d < n$, $\dim \ker L = n - d$ if and only if $\dim \text{coker } L = 0$.*

The following corollaries give some results based on the structure of the matrix D .

COROLLARY 3.3.2. *If $E_2 \equiv 0$ and f belongs to $\text{coker } L$ then f is a polynomial which satisfies (3.7) and (3.8).*

As a result of Corollary 3.3.2 we now know that the polynomials constructed in the proof of Theorem 4.3, [5], span $\text{coker } L$ in the case $D = I_n$. The next corollary also relates to some of the results in [5].

COROLLARY 3.3.3. *Let $D = I_n$. Then $\dim \ker L = \dim \text{coker } L$ and*

$$\dim \ker L = \delta, \quad \text{where } \delta = n(N+1) - \text{rank } \mathcal{B}_1 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\mathcal{B}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} B_0 & B_1 & \cdots & B_n \\ 0 & (B_0 + I_n) & \cdots & B_{N-1} \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ \vdots & & & \\ 0 & \cdots & & (B_0 + NI_n) \end{bmatrix}$$

COROLLARY 3.3.4. *Let $D = 2I_n$. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (i) $\rho = \gamma = n$,
- (ii) $\dim \operatorname{coker} L = n$,
- (iii) $\dim \ker L = 0$.

4. In this section we shall give some examples to illustrate the above results.

EXAMPLE 1. Bessel's equation of order ν , with ν a nonnegative integer. As a two-dimensional system, Bessel's equation is

$$z^2 y'(z) + B(z)y(z) = 0 \quad (4.1)$$

where $B(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -\nu & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} z^2$. It is easy to see that, in Corollary 3.3.3, $\delta = 1$ when $0 \leq \nu \leq N$. In fact, since Bessel's equation of integer order has exactly one analytic solution at $z = 0$, we will always have $N \geq \nu$. Note that Lettenmeyer's theorem is not applicable, for practical purposes, to this example because $\operatorname{tr} D = n = 2$. Also, $\operatorname{coker} L$, L as in (4.1), consists only of polynomials by Corollary 3.3.2, and this polynomial (there is only one because $\dim \operatorname{coker} L = 1$) is constructed in [5].

EXAMPLE 2. Let $n = 3$, $D = 2I_3$, and

$$B(z) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - I_3 z.$$

We have

$$\mathcal{B} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ & & & & & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots \\ & & & & & & & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{N-1} & \frac{N-2}{N-1} & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{N-2}{N-1} & 0 \\ & & & & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{N-2}{N-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

and $\rho = 5$ since $r = 3N - 5$. We will calculate $g(z)$ for this example. System (3.7) can be solved in terms of $g_1^1, g_1^2, g_2^1, g_2^2$, and g_2^3 to get

$$\tilde{g}(z) = \begin{pmatrix} g_1^1 \\ g_2^1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} z + \begin{pmatrix} g_2^1 \\ g_2^2 \\ g_2^3 \end{pmatrix} z^2 + \begin{pmatrix} -g_2^3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} z^3.$$

The matrix \mathcal{C} is now found to be

$$\mathcal{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

and so $\gamma = 2$, and $g(z)$ is given by

$$g(z) = \begin{pmatrix} g_0^1 \\ g_0^2 \\ -g_1^1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} g_1^1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} z + \begin{pmatrix} g_2^1 \\ g_2^2 \\ g_2^3 \end{pmatrix} z^2 + \begin{pmatrix} -g_2^3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} z^3.$$

Using (i) and (ii) in Theorem 3.3 we see that $\dim \operatorname{coker} L = 3 + 5 - 2 = 6$, and $\dim \ker L = 6 + 5 - 2 - 6 = 3$ for this example. The fact that $\dim \ker L = 3$ and $n = 3$ means that here $z = 0$ is an apparent singular point.

EXAMPLE 3. Let $D = \operatorname{diag}\{0, 1, 1\}$, and $B(z) = \operatorname{diag}\{-1, -1, 1\}$. Here $E_0 = I_3 - D$ and $E_1 = D$. As noted earlier, since $E_2 \equiv 0$ we get $C_i \equiv 0$, $i = 1, \dots, N$, in (3.6). The matrix \mathcal{B} , obtained from (3.6), is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B} = & \operatorname{diag} \left\{ 1, 0, 2, 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, 1, \frac{2}{3}, \frac{4}{3}, \dots, 1, \frac{N-1}{N}, \frac{N+1}{N} \right\} \\ & + \operatorname{super}^3 \operatorname{diag} \left\{ -1, 0, 0, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, 0, \dots, -\frac{1}{N-1}, 0, 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

where $\operatorname{super}^3 \operatorname{diag}\{\dots\}$ indicates a matrix with zeros everywhere except on the third diagonal above the main diagonal. For this \mathcal{B} , $\operatorname{rank} \mathcal{B} = 3N - 1$, and so $\rho = 1$. We solve (3.6) in terms of g_1^2 and obtain $g(z) = g_0 + (0, g_1^2, 0)^T z$, so that $G = g_1^2$, $M_1 = (0, 1, 0)^T$, and $M_i = 0$, $i \geq 2$. Hence the matrix \mathcal{C} is given by

$$\mathcal{C} = \begin{pmatrix} B_0 & 0 \\ 0 & E_0 B_0 M_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and we see that $\gamma = 3$. This means that

$$g(z) = M_1 Gz. \quad (4.2)$$

Applying Theorem 3.3 we get that $\dim \operatorname{coker} L = 1$ and $\dim \ker L = 2$ for this example. Note that by Corollary 3.3.2 the cokernel of L is completely characterized by the g in (4.2). Also note that Lettenmeyer's theorem guarantees the existence of just one analytic solution for this example.

REFERENCES

1. L. J. GRIMM AND L. M. HALL, Holomorphic solutions of singular functional differential equations, *J. Math. Anal. Appl.* **50** (1975), 627–638.
2. L. J. GRIMM AND L. M. HALL, An alternative theorem for singular differential systems, *J. Differential Equations* **18** (1975), 411–422.
3. J. K. HALE, Applications of Alternative Problems, Lecture notes 71–1, Division of Applied Math., Brown University, 1971.
4. L. M. HALL, A characterization of the cokernel of a singular Fredholm differential operator, *J. Differential Equations* **24** (1977), 1–7.
5. L. M. HALL, Regular singular differential equations whose conjugate equation has polynomial solutions, *SIAM J. Math. Anal.* **8** (1977), 778–784.
6. F. LETTENMEYER, Über die an einer Unbestimmtheitsstelle regulären Lösungen eines Systems homogener linearen Differentialgleichungen, *Bayer. Akad. Wiss. Math.-Natur. Kl.* (1926), 287–307.
7. H. L. TURRITTIN, Reducing the rank of ordinary differential equations, *Duke Math. J.* **30** (1963), 271–274.